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Budget Minutes 04/16/2010

Budget Subcommittee of the Arlington School Committee
Arlington School Committee Room, 6th Floor of Arlington High School

April 16, 2010

Approved Minutes

ATTENDEES

Committee Members: Leba Heigham, Chair
Kirsi Allison-Ampe
Jeff Thielman

Administration: Superintendent Kathleen Bodie

Others: Richard Fanning, Finance Committee
Juli Brazile
Kurt Fusaris
Kathryn Gandek-Tighe
Gina Sonder

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:45 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The chair invited public participation. No members of the public wished to share any matters of concern during this portion of the meeting.

REVIEW OF THE ADD-BACK RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Bodie presented the Subcommittee with the 19 item Add Back List and recommended the following for funding priority funding:

- 4 Classroom Teachers - Elementary, with the cost adjusted to \$216,000

- 4 Classroom Teachers – Elementary, with the cost adjusted to \$210,000
- Grade 6 Foreign Language – Middle School, \$50,000
- Special Education – Specialist, \$50,000
- Transition Counselor – High School, \$50,000
- Art/Music – Elementary, \$88,400
- Special Education – Specialist, \$50,000

The subcommittee discussed the impact on services to children, public relations, and equity in terms of all schools and all interests as priorities.

Dr. Bodie presented that the Finance Committee allocated an additional \$142,000 to the schools. The subcommittee members discussed whether to use that funding for Special Education services as identified on lines 4, 12, and 18. The members also discussed the timing of the Bridge the Gap fundraiser, the A.C.E. program, and Special Education requirements in relationship to this additional funding.

On a motion of Mr. Thielman, seconded by Dr. Allison-Ampe, the Budget Subcommittee unanimously voted to recommend to the full School Committee that the \$142,000 be used to restore at least 3 Special Education positions and/or the Transition Counselor.

Committee members asked for additional clarification and/or justification of other items. Dr. Bodie reported that Principal Skidmore felt strongly about the need to control fees to ensure adequate student participation. In discussing the traffic supervisors, the supervisors would be positioned in front of the schools unless otherwise identified by the building principals. Dr. Bodie clarified that the afterschool drama program at the Ottoson Middle School still exists; the school day elective has been removed.

The Subcommittee discussed the timeline with the Bridge the Gap deadline of Monday June 7th at 5 pm and the add-backs restoration on Tuesday June 8th.

On a motion of Dr. Allison-Ampe, seconded by Mr. Thielman, the Budget Subcommittee unanimously voted to recommend to the full School Committee the Add Back list as modified (\$216,000 in place of \$240,000.)

NEXT MEETING

Subcommittee members agreed to set the date for the next meeting by email.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Mr. Thielman, seconded by Dr. Allison-Ampe, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted by Leba Heigham, approved 9/13/10.

